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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/809,497	03/26/2004	Takashi Yamamoto	011350-334	7869
21839	7590	09/20/2006	EXAMINER	
BUCHANAN, INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC POST OFFICE BOX 1404 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1404				BOUCHELLE, LAURA A
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		3763		

DATE MAILED: 09/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/809,497	YAMAMOTO ET AL.
	Examiner Laura A. Bouchelle	Art Unit 3763

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 March 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Response to Amendment

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shapland (WO 99/04851). Shapland discloses a needle to deliver an agent into cardiac tissue comprising a sheath 134, an insertion member 142 disposed slidably in the sheath, an injection needle 148 having a bevel 168, and electrodes 160 at the distal end portion of the insertion member constructed so as to move into the target tissue (Page 13, lines 25-28; Page 7, lines 14-15). See Fig. 3.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

4. Claims 3, 5, 7, 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shapland in view of Tollner et al (US 2001/0031942) or Shapland in view of Chee in further view of Tollner. Claim 3 differs from the teaching of Chee in calling for the electrodes to be located not

less than 1 mm from the leading edge of the insertion needle. Tollner discloses a percutaneous insertion catheter comprising sensing electrodes 6 located approximately 3 mm from the tip 4 of the catheter (Page 2, paragraph 30). This configuration eliminates the disadvantage of electrode configurations that are hard to position by offering increased perceptivity lengthwise (Page 1, paragraph 14). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to place the electrodes of Chee in view of Lancea more than 1mm from the leading edge of the insertion member as taught by Tollner to increase perceptivity lengthwise.

5. Claims 4, 6, 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shapland in view of Chee et al (2002/018338). Claim 4 differs from Shapland in calling for a plurality of sets of electrodes. Claim 6 differs in calling for a pair of electrodes positioned at the distal end of the sheath. Chee teaches an apparatus for the treatment of the heart comprising a sheath with three sets of paired electrodes 136, 138, 140 disposed in the distal portion of the catheter so that the impedance of the tissue in the area surrounding the site of insertion of the needle can be measured (Page 8, paragraph 118). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of Chee to include a plurality of electrodes and electrodes at the distal end of the sheath as taught by Chee so that the impedance of the tissue in the area surrounding the site of insertion of the needle can be measured.

6. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shapland in view of Lederman (US 2003/0032936). Claim 10 differs from Shapland in calling for the distal end portion of the sheath to have a through hole communicating with the lumen. Lederman discloses

a catheter 10 with a side through hole 16 in fluid communication with the lumen through which therapeutic or diagnostic agents may be delivered (Page 1, paragraph 10). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the sheath disclosed by Shapland to include a side port as taught by Lederman to deliver therapeutic or diagnostic agents.

7. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shapland in view of Lederman as applied to claim 10 above. Claim 11 differs from the teachings of Shapland in view of Lederman in calling for the through hole to be separated by not less than 1 mm from the end face of the distal end portion. At the time the invention was made, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to place the through hole not less than 1 mm from the end face. Applicant has not disclosed that this distance serves any advantage or particular purpose of solves a stated problem. Furthermore, one of ordinary skill would expect the device of Shapland in view of Lederman to perform equally well with the through hole placed in any location. Therefore, it would have been *prima facie* obvious to modify the device of Shapland in view of Lederman as specified in claim 11 because such a modification would have been considered a mere design consideration which fails to patentably distinguish over the prior art of Shapland in view of Lederman.

8. Claims 13, 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shapland in view of Lum et al (US 6391005). These claims were previously indicated as allowable subject matter, however, an updated search revealed prior art that can be applied to these claims. Claim

13 differs from Shapland in calling for a puncture detecting device. Lum teaches an apparatus for sensing penetration depth comprising conductive ends for sensing the impedance of the tissue about the tip of the shaft as the tissue is being punctured so that the user can monitor when the desired penetration has been achieved (Col. 3, lines 11-27). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of Shapland to include a puncture detecting device as taught by Lum so that the user can monitor when the desired penetration has been achieved.

9. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chee in view of Shapland. Chee discloses a method for treating the heart including inserting the catheter into the living body and advancing it to the neighborhood of the target tissue (Page 21, Claim 33). Chee further discloses the step of puncturing the target tissue based on measurements from the electrodes (Page 22, Claims 50 and 52). Chee further discloses the step of injecting therapeutic composition into the target tissue (Page 22, Claim 39).

10. Claim 15 differs from Chee in calling for at least one of the electrodes to be disposed at the distal end bevel of the injection needle. Shapland teaches a device having electrodes at the distal end bevel of the injection needle to monitor the impedance of the tissue being penetrated. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the method of Chee to include the electrodes at the distal end bevel of the injection needle as taught by Shapland to monitor the impedance of the tissue being penetrated.

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments, see pages 9-11, filed 6/23/2006, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1, 15 under Chee in view of Iancea have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Shapland as discussed above.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura A. Bouchelle whose telephone number is 571-272-2125. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nicholas Lucchesi can be reached on 517-272-4977. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3763

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Laura A Bouchelle
Examiner
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